

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for remote file access comprising:

a server including a communication module and a task

5 queue in which to store a plurality of task requests;

a host computer communicatively coupled to the server,  
the host computer including a storage device for holding a  
plurality of files;

a remote client communicatively coupled to the server  
10 and configured to initiate a task request to retrieve at  
least one of the plurality of files; and

a local agent communicatively coupled to the host  
computer and the server, the local agent configured to poll  
the server and receive the task request from the task  
15 queue, instruct the host computer to execute the task  
request, and return the at least one file to the server.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a speech  
module, disposed between the server and the remote client,  
20 the speech module configured to translate text from the at  
least one file from the server into speech directed to the  
remote client.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the speech module is  
25 configured to return the translated text from the at least  
one file to a remote client other than the remote client  
that initiated the task request.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the local agent is  
30 installed on the host computer.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the local agent is installed on a computer communicatively coupled to the host computer through a local area network.

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6. The system of claim 1, wherein the server further includes a relational database management system configured to hold remote client information, local agent information, and information relating users of the system.

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7. A network communication protocol for remote access to computer readable files, comprising:

receiving a task request at a server from a remote client, the task request identifying a file;

receiving a poll at the server from a local agent, the poll checking for task requests received at the server;

sending the task request from the server to the local agent;

receiving the file at the server from the local agent;

and

transferring the file from the server to the remote client.

8. The remote file access protocol of claim 7, further comprising:

creating a notification at the server for the remote client;

receiving an instruction at the server concerning transfer of the file from the server; and

wherein the act of transferring the file is performed in accordance with the instruction.

9. The remote file access protocol of claim 7, wherein the act of receiving the task request includes receiving the task request through a speech module.

10. The remote file access protocol of claim 9, wherein the act of transferring the file to the remote client includes transferring the file through the speech module.

11. The remote file access protocol of claim 9, wherein the act of transferring the file to the remote client involves transferring the file through the speech module to a second remote client, which is other than the remote client that initiated the task request, the second remote client identified in the instruction concerning the transfer of the file.

12. The remote file access protocol of claim 7, wherein the act of transferring the file to the remote client includes transferring the file through a speech module.

13. The remote file access protocol of claim 7, wherein the act of transferring the file to the remote client includes transferring the file to a second remote client, which is other than the remote client that initiated the task request, the second remote client identified in the instruction concerning the transfer of the file.

14. The remote file access protocol of claim 7, further comprising:

    sending the task request from the remote client to the server;

5       receiving the notification indicating that the task request is complete at the remote client from the server;

    sending the instruction concerning the transfer of the file from the remote client to the server; and

    receiving the file at the remote client from the server  
10 in accordance with the instruction.

15. The remote file access protocol of claim 7, further comprising:

    sending the poll from the local agent to the server at  
15 a periodic interval;

    receiving the task request at the local agent from the server in reply to the poll;

    completing a task corresponding to the task request by the local agent; and

20       sending the file from the local agent to the server, as a consequence of completing the task.

16. The remote file access protocol of claim 15, further comprising:

25       sending a request for the file from the local agent to a local computer; and

    receiving the file at the local agent from the local computer.

17. The remote file access protocol of claim 15, further comprising:

receiving the request for the file at the local computer from the local agent; and

5 returning the file from the local computer to the local agent.

18. A computer readable medium including sequences of instructions for causing one or more processors to perform acts for implementing a network communication protocol for remote access to computer readable files, the acts comprising:

receiving a task request at a server from a remote client, the task request identifying a file;

15 receiving a poll at the server from a local agent, the poll checking for task requests received at the server;

sending the task request from the server to the local agent;

receiving the file at the server from the local agent;

20 and

transferring the file from the server to the remote client.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 18, the acts further comprising:

25 creating a notification at the server for the remote client;

receiving an instruction at the server concerning transfer of the file from the server; and

wherein the act of transferring the file is performed in accordance with the instruction.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the  
5 act of receiving the task request includes receiving the task request through a speech module.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein the  
10 act of transferring the file to the remote client includes transferring the file through the speech module.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein the  
15 act of transferring the file to the remote client involves transferring the file through the speech module to a second remote client, which is other than the remote client that initiated the task request, the second remote client identified in the instruction concerning the transfer of the file.

20 23. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the act of transferring the file to the remote client includes transferring the file through a speech module.

25 24. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the act of transferring the file to the remote client includes transferring the file to a second remote client, which is other than the remote client that initiated the task request, the second remote client identified in the instruction concerning the transfer of the file.

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25. The computer readable medium of claim 18, the acts further comprising:

    sending the task request from the remote client to the server;

5       receiving the notification indicating that the task request is complete at the remote client from the server;

    sending the instruction concerning the transfer of the file from the remote client to the server; and

10       receiving the file at the remote client from the server in accordance with the instruction.

26. The computer readable medium of claim 18, the acts further comprising:

15       sending the poll from the local agent to the server at a periodic interval;

    receiving the task request at the local agent from the server in reply to the poll;

    completing a task corresponding to the task request by the local agent; and

20       sending the file from the local agent to the server, as a consequence of completing the task.

27. The computer readable medium of claim 26, the acts further comprising:

25       sending a request for the file from the local agent to a local computer; and

    receiving the file at the local agent from the local computer.

28. The computer readable medium of claim 26, the sequences of instructions further comprising:

receiving the request for the file at the local computer from the local agent; and

5 returning the file from the local computer to the local agent.

29. A computer readable medium including sequences of instructions for causing one or more processors to perform  
10 acts for remote file access, the sequences of instructions including a server module, and a local agent module, wherein:

the server module is configured to receive a task request from a remote client and store the task request in  
15 a task queue, the task request identifying a file in a host computer; and

the local agent module is configured to poll the server module to receive the task request from the task queue and instruct the host computer to execute the task request.

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30. The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein

the local agent module is further configured to cause the file to be uploaded to the server module; and

the server module is further configured to cause the  
25 file to be forwarded to the remote client.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein

the local agent module is further configured to cause the file to be uploaded to the server module; and



the server module is further configured to cause the file to be forwarded to a remote client other than the remote client that sent the task request.

5 32. The computer readable medium of claim 29, the sequences of instructions further comprising a speech module configured to translate text from the file into speech directed to the remote client.

10 33. The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the speech module is configured to return the translated text from the file to a remote client other than the remote client that initiated the task request.

15 34. The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein the local agent module is configured to be installed on the host computer.

20 35. The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein the local agent module is configured to be installed on a computer communicatively coupled to the host computer through a local area network.

25 36. The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein the server module is further configured to communicate with a relational database management system that holds remote client information, local agent information, and information relating users of the system.